

Remarks:

This amendment is submitted in an earnest effort to advance this case to issue without delay. The examiner has indicated that the case contains allowable subject matter.

The specification has been amended to eliminate some minor obvious errors, typically involving the accurate translation of the original German text, and to make the translation comply better with US application practice. No new matter whatsoever has been added.

Also transmitted herewith are a cleaned-up set of drawings and an PTO-1449 formally of making of record the references cited in the International Search Report filed with the original application papers. Finally a Supplemental Application Data Sheet is provided to reflect the changed title.

Claim 1 has been replaced with new claim 13 that incorporates the features of claims found to be allowable. More particularly this claim now clearly recites the inventive post structure that holds spray pipes on the droplet-separator packs according to the invention.

The main reference, US 5,479,930 of Wolf, which was also cited by the PCT examiner, shows a system with a chevron-shaped mist collector carrying pipes 24, 25 of a spray system (FIGS. 2 and 3). There is nothing resembling the post/rod structure of the instant invention.

The other close reference, DE 3,434,133 of Bulang (cited in the PCT parent) shows in FIG. 8 structure connected to a pack for supporting spray pipes 7. Once again as seen in the side view of FIG. 7, this is not the claimed post structure. Thus the structure of this invention is not seen in the art, making a §102 rejection impossible.

The unobvious advantage of the post structure is that it makes these packs into modular assemblies that can be fitted to an existing plant and easily assembled into an existing droplet separator with good inspection passages and top-and-bottom spraying. Complex in situ fabrication is not needed. Thus a §103 rejection is also not possible.

For these reasons the claims in the case are in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If only minor problems that could be corrected by means of a telephone conference stand in the way of allowance of this

case, the examiner is invited to call the undersigned to make the necessary corrections.

K.F. Ross P.C.

/Andrew Wilford/

by: Andrew Wilford, 26,597
Attorney for Applicant

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5683 Riverdale Avenue Box 900
Bronx, NY 10471-0900
Cust. No.: 535
Tel: 718 884-6600
Fax: 718 601-1099
Email: email@kfrpc.com

Enclosure: None.